

H. R. 139.

APRIL 19, 1820.

Read twice, and committed to a Committee of the whole House
to-morrow.

A BILL

*To enable the inhabitants of the District of Columbia to form a
frame of government.*

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 the inhabitants of the District of Columbia be, and they here-
4 by are, authorised to hold a convention, to determine whether
5 it will be for their benefit to have the rights of self-government
6 extended to them, so far as the same may constitutionally be
7 done; and, if they shall be of such opinion, to form a frame of
8 government, to be submitted to Congress for their approbation.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That the said conven-*
2 tion shall be composed of twelve representatives for the city
3 of Washington, and that part of the county of Washington east
4 of Rock creek; of eight representatives for the town of George-
5 town, and that part of the county west of Rock creek; and of
6 nine representatives from the town and county of Alexandria.

7 The said representatives to be free white taxable males, inhabi-
8 bitants of said District, above the age of twenty-one years, who
9 shall be chosen by ballot by the free white taxable males, in-
10 habitants of said District, above the age of twenty-one years,
11 on the day of next,
12 under the superintendence of such judges, at such place in each
13 of the said towns, and subject to such other directions, as the
14 President of the United States may prescribe.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the persons so
2 chosen shall convene in the city of Washington, at such place
3 as shall be fixed by the President of the United States, on the
4 day of and shall organise
5 themselves by the appointment of a presiding officer, and such
6 other officers as may be necessary: A majority of the members
7 shall constitute a quorum, and their proceedings shall be com-
8 municated to the President of the United States, to be by him
9 laid before Congress, at their next session.